

**QMSB Unification Committee**  
**September 27, 2022**  
**Minutes**

Call to order: 6:34

Prayer led by Father Benedykt: Renew My Church Prayer read by all

Roll Call by Katie Clark:

**Present:**

Deacon Bob Landuyt	John Woolley
Father Bob Tonelli	Peggy Remiasz
Rick Biszewski	Johanna Konieczny
Phillip Maher	Char Bermele
Terry Reidy	Gina O'Connell
Katie Clark* (Secretary)	Father Benedykt Pazdan
Father Ritchie Ortiz	Linda Blaeser
Diane Pajkos	Carol Zofkie
Maribeth Rodela	Kevin Kirkland
Eileen McNichols* (Chairperson)	Jenny Schmitt

**Absent:** Mike Griegel (attending another meeting)

Motion by Deacon Bob w/ Johanna Konieczny seconding to approve the minutes of the meeting from August; motion passed and minutes approved.

**Pastor's Report:**

- Thanking all the volunteers for all their hard work for Martyrs Fest; it was a great weekend; Congratulations to all the raffle winners
- Tree removal and trimming from QofM campus for safety and aesthetics reasons
- Tabernacles have been swapped from the QofM chapel and church (cleared with adoration ministry prior to the switch)--Temporary until the St. Bernadette one will be moved over
- Presiders chairs were reupholstered (thanks Fr. Ritchie!)
- New spotlights in the QofM sanctuary (new bulbs were placed in); now it is apparent that a paint job will be a next step; will fix other lights when we have a lift available to fix those
- Fr. Ritchie & Tina O'Shea are training new servers (12 new servers total); recruiting from faith formation will increase that number hopefully; hope to have 5 servers at each mass on the altar; new albs were purchased too; red and black are being retired; white and red robe w/ ties ready to go
- OSF Little Company of Mary Hospital & St. Bernadette--finally close the deal; Sept 16th a 3rd amendment of the proposal was accepted--
  - St. Bernadette will no longer be responsible for the demolition of the building;
  - Roughly \$1.7 million for the property;
  - College of Consultants will vote to approve on October 4th (School building, hut, part of the parking lot, & convent)
  - Hopefully done by October 5th
- Lawsuit at the Vatican: collection was taken \$2,500 needed for the lawyers and they were able to collect and paperwork was finished and sent to the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic of the Signātūra
- Advent Raffle: \$1,000 on Christmas Eve; Starting with Thanksgiving weekend each weekend someone can win \$200; Should it be continued (raised around \$7,000 last year)--\$25 a family (each family buys 3; available at the rectory)
  - decided to keep the raffle and raise the prize to \$2500 because of the two parishes working together
  - drawings will happen at alternating locations

- Pastor installation mass for Father: November 5th; Traditionally the Parish Council comes forward but seeing that we do not have one Father will check with the Bishop to see if we as the Unification Team can “play that role”
- Mass and Celebration will take place at QofM
- Peggy Remaisz asked if there was a parish council from St. Bernadette and Father stated that there was until it was dissolved when the renew my church was decided

#### Old Business:

- Teams needed to be decided today; people break up; select a leader and as a team they will decide when to meet and create a report to present out to the unification committee at the monthly meeting
  - Naming Team--Father Bob will lead that one
    - names based on criteria that was developed by the Archdiocese of Chicago
  - Liturgy/Worship
    - Combining ministries from both churches
    - Unity masses and prayer services
  - Community/Environment Team
    - Developing outreach
    - Social events to help improve unity
    - Arts & Environment
- QofM members will need to share the ministries from QofM with the rest of the team to help identify where we see overlap and where these groups would work on the teams
- Mass times need to be finalized for the coming year
  - People are calling the offices for mass intentions and we need to know the time
  - Office staff would appreciate this information to help those that are already calling
  - Father Benedykt: We have to keep in mind to think about the long term so we don't frustrate people; St Bernadette will have more changes;
    - updated numbers for mass attendance were provided to the team;
    - St. Bernadette's attendance is going down
  - Char Bermele asked: “What is working well”; “what is working well so far”; Father Richie and Father Mathieu are working well but they may be called because of shortage; so, we need to think about this as we plan mass time.
  - Rick Biszewski: whatever time you set; people will go to the convenient time that they want; no magic time that will hit; not overthinking it
  - Deacon Bob: weekdays or weekends
    - Father B: Not touching weekdays; it is working; no complaints; 50-60 at each mass; good crowd so weekdays will stay the same
  - Father Benedykt: I am suggesting one morning mass at St. Bernadette; keep Saturday 4:00 o'clock at each church;
    - Deacon Bob: asked about relying on Father Mathieu--Father stated that we will plan assuming that he is not available because he is not permanent
  - Father Benedykt: Parishioners are calling to see if mass times will go back to what they were pre-Covid
  - Katie Clark: provided St Walter as an example; one mass on Saturday at St. Walters and the Sunday masses are at St. Benedict
  - Father Bob: One mass one time and one mass at the other; if someone is sick then what do we do;
  - Father Benedykt: We need to start gathering people under one roof; I haven't seen the Woolley family because we keep missing each other; sense of community is missing; changing the times could feel like a loss but it is coming so maybe we need to prepare and start adjusting;
  - Rick Biszewski: what percent of St. Bernadette are the hard-core angry group?
  - Father: asked Carol

- Carol: greater feelings of anxiety and angst around possible changes at the 4:00 mass
- Deacon Bob: What is the availability of Father Tom McCarthy?
- Father Benedykt: Using Father McCarthy strategically to encourage people to come back; good crowds when he is there because he is a locally known and respected priest
- Deacon Bob: pretty consistent help from St Rita so is it possible to rely on them again for support on our possible new mass times?
- Father Benedykt: not necessarily needed at this time because of the many available priests; costs money to pay musicians to cover 6 masses at the same time;
- John Woolley: Father, what is your goal--how many?
- Father Benedykt: 5 masses; 1 mass here at 4:00 and one on Sunday; keep QofM at the two now on Sunday and the 4:00 on Saturday; we struggle to get ministers at each site; I have talked to many priests and have prayed a lot on it; the best thing would be one morning mass at St. Bernadette and maybe make it to 9:30 (everyone sacrifices an hour);
- Father Ritchie: Keep confessions at both churches
- Eileen McNichols: There are less people at Bernadette so they will lose one
- Father Benedykt: going back to my suggestion--giving people an extra time slot that wasn't there before; 8:30, 9:30, 10:30
- Eileen McNichols: Do we want to take a vote on it
- Katie Clark: Can we bring back the Sunday evening mass? It may help to encourage our younger teenagers to participate more because they were in charge of that mass prior to Covid
- Father Bob: October numbers go up; these number will go up; they stick around;
- Father Benedykt: because a neighboring parish has a 5 o'clock mass; are the needs of that community served; how many have evening mass on Sunday already near us? 8:00 PM at St. Xavier is not that well attended
- Eileen McNichols: can we reach out to surrounding churches to see; can we ponder on this another time (all agree)
- Father Benedykt: Are we good for Sunday morning? going into effect
  - 4:00 at both locations
  - 8:30-QofM
  - 9:30-St Bernadette
  - 10:30-QofM
  - 5:00--INVESTIGATE
    - Going into effect????
    - New Year New Mass Times
    - JAN 1st NEW MASS TIMES
      - NEW YEAR NEW TIMES!
      - all in favor; dissent Father Bob;
- Eileen McNichols--new business
- Father Benedykt New Business: we have an email for this group for parishioners to communicate with you (Email for parishioners to communicate with UWG: [QMSTBunification@gmail.com](mailto:QMSTBunification@gmail.com))--this can be forwarded to our emails; who responds;
- Eileen McNichols--Father should not respond; we don't know how many yet so I will follow it; if it becomes overwhelming then we can parcel out
  - Father Benedykt: Have Mark set it up that all of you get the email but only Eileen responds;
  - Johanna: In the future the emails may relate to a specific team so we can reply that way as well
  - Father Benedykt: We should all get the emails initially so we know what people are asking but again Eileen McNichols
  - Eileen McNichols--I will respond maybe twice a week; interest of time; everyone will get an automatic response that their email was received; a more formal response may follow depending on the question being posed

- Father Benedykt: Web Page is ready-not live though; we'll publish the minutes of the meetings; photos of the team and maybe some pictures of the changes that were made;
  
- Father Benedykt: We need to discuss the reporting of Sunday Collection in the bulletin: Should we report collection as one? Will this negatively affect donations; this is a worry; maintenance fund specific to this building which can help people who may have a harder time with transitioning
- Eileen McNichols: Combine envelopes so that we are all receiving the same ones with both church names but separate building fund envelopes?
- Father Ritchie: I was asked by a parishioner of St Bernadette why are we still maintaining this church if it is being torn down
- Father Benedykt: The church is not being torn down and we will be open for two more years which means that maintenance will have to happen
- Maribeth Rodela: these are legitimate feeling and concerns that have been brought to her attention too; it's going to be torn down then why maintain it;
- Father Benedykt: Right now, the funds are separated on building maintenance; our monies are not fully merged but I will have a meeting next week to talk about merging accounts
- Maribeth Rodela: If there is money left once St. Bernadette closes then what happens to that money
- Father Benedykt: the extra money will merge into the unified parish;
- Maribeth Rodela: What if the church needs upkeep and there are no funds in St. Bernadette's account?
- Father Benedykt: Both churches are in this new parish so funds will need to be allocated regardless
- Father Benedykt: Can we merge all collection accounts in the bulletin instead of keeping them separate?
- Kevin Kirkland & John Wooley: Report it combined in the bulletin;
- Eileen McNichols: So, the question is should we report in the bulletin on Sunday collection as one combined now or wait until the first of the year to make that change in the bulletin?
- Maribeth Rodela: seeing the numbers of mass attendance makes me feel comfortable to do it now
- Father: I would like to hear from everyone
- Katie Clark: ROLL CALL VOTE on yea/nay on combining financial records and posting in the next available bulletin:
  - Deacon Bob Landuyt-Yea
  - John Woolley-Yea
  - Father Bob Tonelli -Yea
  - Rick Biszewski -Yea
  - Johanna Konieczny-Yea
  - Phillip Maher -Yea
  - Char Bermele-Yea
  - Terry Reidy -Nay
  - Gina O'Connell-Nay
  - Katie Clark-Yea
  - Father Ritchie Ortiz-Yea
  - Linda Blaeser-Yea
  - Diane Pajkos-Yea
  - Carol Zofkie-Yea

- Maribeth Rodela -Yea
  - Kevin Kirkland-Yea
  - Eileen McNichols-Yea
  - Jenny Schmitt-Absent for vote
  - Peggy Remiasz-Yea
    - Motion passes
- Eileen: Parish Lenten Mission
  - Father: Father Bernard Cotter from Ireland (he is currently blending 5 parishes in Ireland; renew my church is a worldwide process); was he going to be able to do the Parish Lenten Mission; he has finally gotten back and has stated that he can
  - He will be here right around St Patrick's Day: March 18th (preach at QofM), 19th (preach at QofM), MISSION: 20th, 21st 22nd--at QofM
    - more on this will be discussed at the next meeting
  - TABLED: Group Picture
    - This will be done next meeting and uploaded to the website
- Committee Selection:
  - People picked what committee they would like to be a part of:
    - Deacon Bob Landuyt---Community and Environment Team
    - John Woolley-Liturgy/Worship Team
    - Father Bob Tonelli -Naming Team
    - Mike Griegel-Community and Environment Team
    - Rick Biszewski -Community and Environment Team
    - Johanna Konieczny-Community and Environment Team
    - Phillip Maher -Naming Team
    - Char Bermele-Naming Team
    - Terry Reidy -Community and Environment Team
    - Gina O'Connell-Liturgy/Worship Team
    - Katie Clark-Naming Team
    - Father Ritchie Ortiz-Liturgy/Worship Team
    - Linda Blaeser-Community and Environment Team
    - Diane Pajkos-Liturgy/Worship Team
    - Carol Zofkie-Naming Team
    - Maribeth Rodela -Community and Environment Team
    - Kevin Kirkland-Community and Environment Team
    - Eileen McNichols- Liturgy/Worship Team
    - Jenny Schmitt -Community and Environment Team
    - Peggy Remiasz-Y -Liturgy/Worship Team
  - Committees will be led by the following
    - Community and Environment Team: Linda Blaeser & Mike Griegel
    - Naming Team: Father Bob Tonelli
    - Liturgy/Worship Team: Father Ritchie Ortiz
  - Committee heads then reach out to the group to plan a meeting time
    - Committees will meet prior to the next unification meeting
    - Minutes will be taken at those meetings and updates will be provided to the unification committee at our next meeting
- NEXT MEETING: October 25th 6:30-8:30--St Bernadette

Motion to adjourn John and seconded by Deacon Bob (8:10)

Minutes submitted by Katie Clark